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1960/01/18

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January 18, 1960

Intelligence Items reported to the President

1. Turkey - Political leaders (Menderes and Inonu) are exchanging sharp partisan political attacks. Government may call early elections to take advantage of popular reaction to benefits of economic stabilization program.
2. France - Pinay says his party will move over to the opposition in the Assembly and try to call a special session.
3. Laos - Government is devising electoral procedures to assure conservative victory this spring. Intends to continue neutral foreign policy.
4. Dominican Republic - Trujillo is trying to counter growing unrest with economic concessions such as reduced rents and removal of his son as Chief of the combined general staff.
5. Lebanon - Foreign Minister warns of war by Arabs against Israel if Israel diverts the Jordan into the Negev. Subsequently our Ambassador, on instructions, urged Arab moderation on Jordan waters. Arabs are considering diverting headwaters of the Jordan. They fear irrigation of Negev would permit colonization of two million more Jews, and prevent Arabs from starving Israel out. We recall that Arabs refused to accept the plan presented by Eric Johnston. One danger lies in fact that Arabs are making their opposition public.
6. In negotiations on settlement of lend-lease, Russian Ambassador here insists on tying settlement to the conclusion of a trade agreement and extension of credits. We are opposing this, and considering whether and when to take the matter up with Soviet Foreign Ministry.
7. The Germans informed Norstad of an intent to hold German-Spanish military discussions on training facilities and logistic support in Spain and cooperation between German and Spanish industry. Norstad strongly advised against this as harming Germany's opponents in present circumstances. Germans state the visit has been indefinitely postponed.



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